STUDENT COMPOSER CONCERT #1

New works by composers from the University of Toronto, Faculty of Music

Tuesday, October 16 @ 7:00pm
Walter Hall, Edward Johnson Building
University of Toronto

Programme

What Chapter Will You Write
Kevin Zi-Xiao He (b.1991)

video

Fireflies
Michael Maevskiy (b.1997)

Toronto Voice Lab

Stock Footage of my Cow Without Glasses
Kai Leung (b.1998)

Jesse Ma – Alto Saxophone

Gigue
Ben Zhang (b.1997)

Ben Zhang – Piano

Come In Silence
Sami Anguaya (b.1998)

Salena Harriman – Soprano
Madeleine Kay – Violin
Benjamin Gabbay – Piano

Dryads

Ricardo Ferro (b.2000)

Amelia McNiven-Fontani – Violin 1
Jess Ng – Violin 2
Emelia Findlay – Viola
Gretchen Lee – Cello
Maria Fedyushina – Piano

Intersections

Shreya Jha (b.1998)

Movement 1: Avenue

Rebekah Tam – Flute
Eric Luo – Oboe
Kevin Vuong – Clarinet
Benjamin Law – Horn
Rae Pauzé – Bassoon

Choral pieces from the Symphony "The Coming of Christ"

Henrique Coe (b.1986)

1- Et Creavit Deus Hominem (from Mov. I)
2- Et Incarnatus Est (from Mov. II)
3- Verbum Caro Factum Est (from Mov II)
4- Christus Factus Est (from Mov. III)
5- In Manus Tuas Domine (from Mov. III)
6- Et Resurrexit Tertia Die (from Mov. III)
7- Alleluia Redemptionem (from Mov. III)
8- Alleluia Oportebat (from Mov. III)

Mélissa Danis, Rosemond Desjardins - Soprano
Martina Myskohlid, Courtney Waldie - Alto
Jeremy Tingle, Matthew Boudta - Tenor
John Krutschke - Bass
Nicholas Wanstall - Organ
Henrique Coe - Conductor

*****PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR CELL PHONE IS EITHER TURNED OFF, OR IN AIRPLANE MODE. EVEN IN VIBRATE/SILENT MODE, OUR MICROPHONES CAN PICK UP THE SIGNALS OF INCOMING CALLS, TEXTS, AND SO ON. THIS CAN RUIN RECORDINGS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION*****

Programme Notes

What Chapter Will You Write

I had the honour to score for the 2018 University of Toronto official promo video "What Chapter Will You Write". It was a piece that was asked to speak to a younger audience, in which I expressed my pride and gratitude towards my university. Soundtrack produced in Cubase 9 pro. Special thanks to my dear media composer friend, the one and only Aaron Tsang, for mixing the final track in his studio.

Kevin Zi-Xiao He is a Chinese-born composer who immigrated to Canada in his mid-teen years. He's musical output originates from a Chinese cultural background, embodying Eastern musical elements within a Western art music framework. Zi-Xiao He has studied composition with Alexander Rapoport, Ronald Royer and Larysa Kuzmenko. His works have been presented by the Chinese Artists Society of Toronto (CAST) and the Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra (SPO), and performed in the Composers Concerts at the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto. Having completed a bachelor's degree with double-majoring in music and architectural design, He is currently a candidate of D.M.A. in composition in the studio of Christos Hatzis, at the University of Toronto. www.hezixiao.com

Fireflies

Fireflies was inspired by the beautiful poem of the same name by Canadian poet Margo Wheaton. The poetry encapsulates a moment of captivating beauty that enthralls the observer, a moment where all time stops and the observer is mesmerized by the serene nature of beauty. Throughout the piece, there was an attempt to entrance the listener, in a similar fashion to how the poetry makes the reader hold their breath as the last lines are read.

Michael Maevskiy born in St. Petersburg, Russia, immigrated to Canada when he was 5. He began studying piano at the age of 7, and since developed an interest in composition. Michael is currently in the fourth year of his undergraduate studies at the University of Toronto, studying composition with Abigail Richardson-Schulte.

Stock Footage of my Cow Without Glasses

Stock Footage of my Cow Without Glasses is a piece in rondo form that explores extended techniques on the saxophone. The title comes both from the saxophones ability to sound like a mooing cow and from a mildly traumatic experience the composer had as a child.

Kai Leung is a third year voice and composition student at the University of Toronto. He currently studies with Roger Bergs, and has studied in the past with Dr. Rapoport and Larysa Kuzmenko.

Gigue

Gigue is the fruit of my study regarding forms and harmonic mapping in the Baroque era. During the time of composition I was deeply inspired by the keyboard music of Bach and wanted to reinterpret the baroque style using my own musical language while still giving respect to tradition. Gigue is originally a dance in the Baroque era with the main distinct feature of an uplifting 9/8 time but in my reinterpretation I change the style to allow for a more mellower feeling using a more modern harmonic language that is a mix of keys and modes. Take note during the points of harmonic changes as well as the contrapuntal texture during the piece as they are the most obvious examples of Baroque influence in this piece.

Benjamin Yin Ao Zhang is currently a fourth year music composition student at University of Toronto. He is now studying with Dr.Rapoport and have studied with Dr.Berg in the past. He graduated from Earl Haig S.S and was a Horn major for one year at Western University before transferring to Toronto to focus on Piano and Composition. His musical style is influenced from a wide variety of figures starting from Bach, Beethoven, to Mathieu, Yoshimatsu, and other contempory figures like Hiroshi Yoshimura, Isao Tomita, and Yngwie Malmsteen. Ben is also deeply interested in medieval art and music and enjoys creating illuminated musical scores for his pieces. In his free time he enjoy attending shows and concerts, the most recent being by TOE and 88Rising.

Come In Silence

Come In Silence is a setting of the poem Echo by Christina Rossetti. The composer wrote the song as a trio, adding the violin to intertwine with the singer's rising and falling melodic lines. In deciphering this incredibly beautiful text, the composer was drawn to the sonorities of quintal chords - painting the complicated melancholy that comes with love and loss. Although each verse is similar in musical structure, slight changes in melody and accompaniment develop the sense of intensity and pain within the poetry.

Sami Anguaya is a 20-year-old singer studying Composition at the University of Toronto under James Rolfe. Sami began composing art music during his time at Canterbury Arts High School in Ottawa, where he was exposed to the choral works of Moses Hogan, Eric Whitacre, and Gabriel Fauré.

Dryads

"Dryads" for piano and strings is a work suggesting images of fantasy and mystery. Having been originally conceived as a work for violin solo, it developed through multiple instrumentations into a two-movement

programmatic suite for piano quintet, of which the first movement will be performed tonight.

The first movement is a lyrical rondo with four main alternating motifs that are explored and developed as a dialogue unfolds between the voices. From the opening, soaring melody presented by the first violin to a climactic fugue, the work showcases a highly colourful harmonic language and a contemplative, introspective sound.

The title makes reference to the mythological Greek tree spirits, suggesting an atmosphere of fantasy and curiosity, and a work conveying vivid, dream-like scenes of imagination.

Ricardo Ferro is a composer and pianist. He studies composition with Larysa Kuzmenko and piano with Younggun Kim. Previous teachers include Andrea Botticelli, and Andrew Novosky.

Ricardo is a 1st year undergraduate composition student at the University of Toronto. He has written works performed by the Oakville Symphony Youth Orchestra, and has been featured at the Toronto Arts and Letters Club Student Composer Concerts. He has additionally written award winning musicals and short film soundtracks for the Brandeis University Short Film Festival and the Ontario Drama Festival. As a performer, he has won several awards and scholarships in various competitions and festivals.

INTERSECTIONS

Intersections draws upon nostalgia for the places that have been important to me at different points in our lives, whether it be during childhood, adolescence, or the beginnings of adulthood. Each movement describes a street intersection I have visited a lot during my time growing up in Toronto while also serving as an 'intersection' between soundscape and music. I aim to use a variety of techniques to recreate the sounds one hears in the environment itself. The first movement describes the atmosphere of one of the busier street intersections I used to cross to get to my elementary school. Along with the wistful melody, one may hear the gentle tapping of the rain on a fall day, the honking of the car horns as they come to a stop, or the whistle of the crossing guard as he takes children across the street to school.

Shreya Jha is a twenty-year-old composer in her third year of studies in music composition at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music and neuroscience in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. She has previously studied with Roger Bergs and is now studying with Gary Kulesha.

The Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra has thrice commissioned Shreya in their 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 seasons as well as their upcoming 2018-2019 season. In March 2017 and 2018, the Gryphon Trio premiered her pieces at their Trinity College coffeehouse. The Bold City Contemporary Ensemble selected her piece for programming in their 2017-2018 season. She is also an active composer in Ryerson University's Radio and Technological Arts program and an active music director and composer in University of Toronto campus theatre. Shreya is also keenly interested in childhood music educations as well as interdisciplinary research in science and music.

Choral pieces from the Symphony

Symphony "The Coming of Christ" for orchestra and choir was mainly composed in 2014. It is divided into three movements: I- "The Creation, The Garden of Eden, and The Fall"; II- "The Incarnation"; and III- "The Passion and the Resurrection". The choral pieces received revisions up to 2018. Those eight choral pieces from the symphony may be sung as independent pieces. The total duration of the 8 choral pieces is of approximately 17'15".

The texts were extracted from the 1961 Liber Usualis, following the liturgical instructions, and from the Vulgata.

Henrique Coe is a Brazilian and Canadian composer currently doing a doctoral degree in composition at the University of Toronto studying with Norbert Palej. In 2017, Henrique composed three pieces for the Dedication of the Montréal Cathedral in Canada, and his piece "Ave Maris Stella" was premiered by the Orquestra Filarmônica de Minas Gerais at the finale of the composition competition "Festival Tinta Fresca" in Brazil. Also in 2017, his piece "Defend us in Battle" was premiered in Canada by the Windsor Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Henrique previously studied at Université de Montréal (Canada) and at Conservatório Brasileiro de Música (Brazil). Many videos of his compositions may be watched at www.henriquecoe.com

Acknowledgements

The composition students would like to extend a special thanks to the following – our teacher mentors – for all their guidance, patience, and wisdom:

Roger Bergs, Eliot Britton, Christos Hatzis, Gary Kulesha, Larysa Kuzmenko, Norbert Palej, Dennis Patrick, Alexander Rapoport, Abigail Richardson, James Rolfe.

We would also like to thank Peter Olsen for recording our music and making it sound beautiful.

Please join us for Student Composer Concert #2 – Tuesday, November 20 at 7:00pm in Walter Hall.

UofT Composers